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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BISSAU 00654 121106Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ARA-10 EUR-12 /086 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1238

S E C R E T BISSAU 0654

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: XA, CU, UR, MPOL, PU, CV
SUBJECT: SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 134913

1. REFTEL RECEIVED BISSAU JUNE 3 BY POUCH FROM DAKAR. FOLLOWING COMMENTS SUBMITTED FYI ALTHOUGH DUE DATE ON PAPER ALREADY PASSED.

2. GOVERNMENTS OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE BOTH CAME TO POWER WITH EXTENSIVE ASSISTANCE SOVIETS AND CUBANS. RELATIVELY LARGE SOVIET AND CUBAN CONTINGENTS ARE PRESENT IN GUINEA-BISSAU, INCLUDING NUMBERS OF MILITARY ADVISORS AND TECHNICIANS (PROBABLY FIFTY OF EACH NATIONALITY). VERY FEW SOVIETS AND DUBANS IN CAPE VERDE. ARMIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES COMPLETELY EQUIPPED WITH SOVIET ARMS AND MATERIALS.

3. AS RESULT ABOVE, BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA. CUBAN ROLE IN ETHIOPIA WAS NOT RPT NOT SO MUCH SUPPORTED AS UNDERSTOOD.

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4. NEVERTHELESS, I HAVE IMPRESSION, UNSUPPORTED BY HARD FACTS BUT CONCURRED IN BY SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES, THAT BOTH GOGB AND GOCV ARE BECOMING SOMEWHAT NERVOUS ABOUT EXPANDING CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA AND BY APPARENT PERMANENT ROLE IN ANGOLA. BOTH GOVERNMENTS NOW ABSTAIN FROM PUBLIC COMMENT ON SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN ETHIOPIA AND OTHER

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AREAS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS APPEAR UNCOMFORT-
ABLE WHEN SUBJECT RAISED.

5. I WOULD SUM UP LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ATTITUDES
TOWARD SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA AS INITIALLY
FAVORABLE, BUT WITH DOUBTS NOW ARISING. I WOULD
NOT EXPECT EITHER GOCV OR GOGB TO TAKE PUBLIC
STANCE IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE BUT BEHIND THE
SCENES ROLE (SUCH AS IT IS) MIGHT BEGIN TO SHOW
SIGNS OF CAUTION AND INCREASED PREFERENCE FOR
PAN-AFRICAN POLICIES WHICH EXCLUDE FOREIGN
INTERFERENCE.
MARKS

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